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have responded eagerly to the appeals made in behalf of humanity and peace, and, where asked to do so, have themselves taken part enthusiastically in the exercises.

It is not proposed that the 18th of May be made a holiday, or that any large amount of time should be taken from the regular school duties, but that only half an hour, or at most an hour, should be devoted to this subject. The freshness of spirit aroused by such exercises compensates many times over for the time devoted to them.

During the past three years the state superintendents in no less than twelve states — Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Ohio, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Montana, Colorado, California, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Idaho — have recommended the observance of the day in the schools under their supervision, and in a considerable number of other states local superintendents have taken the matter up and secured most satisfactory results in the schools under their charge.

It is to be hoped that this year the Superintendents of Public Instruction in all the states and the superintendents in all the important cities of the nation, to whom this letter is addressed, will coöperate in securing the general observance of the day throughout the country in the way proposed.

The American Peace Society will be glad to place its literature, at a merely nominal price, at the service of superintendents and teachers who may desire to use it in making preparation for the day.

Asking your favorable consideration of the suggestion here made, I am, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society,

Yours very sincerely,

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD, *Secretary*.

Boston, March 2, 1908.

The New Field Secretaryship.

The Board of Directors of the American Peace Society have established a Field Secretaryship, which went into operation the first of this month. This step has been under consideration for some time, and has been taken because of the greatly increased interest in the peace cause throughout the nation, and the consequent necessity of larger and completer organization and consolidation of the peace forces of the country. The new Field Secretary will spend his time visiting important points where work is needed and called for; forming branch societies; aiding in organizing and holding meetings and conferences; attending and presenting the cause at religious, educational, industrial, and other national, state or local conventions; soliciting memberships, subscriptions and contributions; in a word, promoting the work of the Society in advancing the cause of arbitration and peace in whatever places may offer suitable opportunities for doing so.

For this important position the Board have fortunately secured the services of Rev. Charles E. Beals, recently pastor of the Prospect Street Congregational Church, Cambridge, Mass. Mr. Beals is, the Board be-

lieve, peculiarly well qualified for this service. Still a young man, well educated, with a strong, vital personality, full of energy and enthusiasm, and thoroughly devoted to all the higher and better interests of humanity, Mr. Beals brings to this work profound conviction of the greatness and sacredness of the cause, and a devotion which will almost certainly prove contagious wherever he goes. We commend him to the confidence and kindness of all those among whom his lot may fall — and not only to your confidence, but also to your cordial coöperation, for no man, however gifted, can make a success of such a large and difficult task as this unless those with whom and for whom he labors enter heartily into his labors.

Notice of the Annual Meeting.

Notice is hereby given to the members that the Eightieth Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society will be held in the Society's Rooms, 31 Beacon Street, Boston, on May 18, 1908, at 2 o'clock P.M. The Annual Dinner will take place at 6.30 P.M. the same day, the place of which will be announced in the May issue of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*, as also the names of those who will speak. Will all the members who are within reach of Boston kindly reserve this date and arrange to be present? It is the eightieth anniversary of the Society, and we hope to make the occasion a most interesting and important one.

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD, *Secretary*.

Editorial Notes.

The opposition among the Russian people to the government's proposal to spend a thousand millions of dollars in rebuilding a vast battle fleet has shown itself powerfully in the third Duma, in spite of the fact that the body is composed very largely of reactionaries. The government's program was so severely criticised that it was finally withdrawn, as there was no hope that the Duma could be persuaded to accept it. Even the National Defense Committee, which was composed entirely of reactionaries, refused to report even a modest credit for new warships, until the Navy Department should be thoroughly reorganized. Mr. Stolypin used all his power of persuasion to bring the Duma to grant the credit. The Duma Committee refused to be moved. The general opinion in the Duma seems to favor small ships instead of vessels of the big "Dreadnought" type, such as several governments are now building. Are we to have, after all, the surprise of seeing limitation of armaments begin with Russia? Just as strange things have happened. Russia has no need of a great navy, from any point of view, and she will recover her prestige much more quickly if she does not rebuild than if she does, and she will be safer and stronger without a navy.

The Duma
and the Navy.

**Peace Society
of Southern
California.**

The movement which has been on foot for some time for the establishment of a Peace Society in California has finally culminated in the organization at Los Angeles of the Peace Society of Southern California. The meeting for completing the organization was held on March 14, and presided over by Dr. Hugh K. Walker, pastor of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. Besides Dr. Walker, the principal speaker was President George A. Gates of Pomona College, whose address is reported to have been a strong one. The officers elected were: President, Dr. William V. Coffin, Assistant Superintendent of the State School, Whittier; First Vice-President, Prof. F. H. White, Pomona College; Second Vice-President, Rev. Baker P. Lee, Los Angeles; Third Vice-President, Miss M. Frances Sanders, teacher, Los Angeles; Fourth Vice-President, Rev. H. H. Guy, Los Angeles (fifteen years a missionary in Japan); Fifth Vice-President, Mr. Isaac H. Pedrick, Pasadena; Secretary-Treasurer, Robert C. Root of Huntington Beach; Executive Committee: Rev. Arthur Phelps, Central Baptist Church, Los Angeles; Rev. Andrew Mitchell, Friends Church, Long Beach; and Dr. Hugh K. Walker of Los Angeles. The society is organized as a Branch of the American Peace Society, and begins with a membership of over sixty. An effort will be immediately made to extend the membership among the citizens of Los Angeles and other Southern California cities and towns, and it is hoped that in a short time five hundred or more members will be secured. Robert C. Root, the Secretary, through whose efforts especially the society has been formed, is a strong, energetic and devoted friend of the peace cause, and deserves and certainly will have the hearty support of all the friends of the cause in Southern California. Mr. Root has had put into the constitution of the new society a provision for Junior Branches, or Study Circles, and one such circle has already been formed in the Lowell School at Redlands. He hopes to be able to organize many such circles in the California schools. This is a new departure in peace work, and if it is vigorously and patiently prosecuted, under the charge of interested and capable instructors, who will give time to it, even at a sacrifice to themselves, it will produce results of the very highest order. We welcome the coöperation of the Peace Society of Southern California, and hope it may have a long and influential career.

**The Kaiser's
Letter.**

The London *Times*, which, considering its position and influence among British papers, has lately fallen about as far into the "gutter" of sensational journalism as can well be imagined of a respectable paper, has entirely outdone itself in its course in regard to the letter of Emperor

William to Lord Tweedmouth. Through its influence, and that of its followers, nearly the whole of England was thrown into a frenzy of excitement and angry feeling toward the Kaiser, whom the *Times* had falsely set out as having attempted to interfere in the internal naval policy of Great Britain. The letter, as it turned out, and as any thoughtful person ought to have guessed, was purely private and personal, and the *Times* might easily have found this out if it had been disposed to do so. The incident reveals incidentally two things, both of which are discouraging: First, it sets forth in almost a lurid light the bad state of feeling which exists in many British circles towards Germany. This is at the present time one of the most serious obstacles to the further progress of the organization of peace among the nations. Two great nations like these can, by acts of petty selfishness and jealousy, hold the whole world back, and the individual or the journal who stirs them up to do this is worthy of the severest reprobation. It is a high pleasure to be able to record the fact that in this instance the responsible British authorities kept their heads and were not in the least swerved by the *Times*, or the popular clamor, from their settled pacific policy towards Germany. The other discouraging fact emphasized by this episode is that there still remains in the masses of the people generally such a readiness to fly into passion and uncontrollable excitement on any slight provocation from a foreign source. This popular inflammableness no longer pushes nations quickly to war, because it is for the most part held in check by the saner and more level-headed government authorities of our time. But it is still a stubborn factor to deal with. The only remedy for it, so far as we see, is a steady process of education, through which both the social ideals and the social instincts of peoples shall be transformed from the crude and brutal forms of the past into something really worthy of men.

**Is it a Peace
Society?**

The so-called North Carolina Peace Society (Wilmington, N. C.) ought to have been named the North Carolina Navy League. A memorial has been sent to Congress in the name of the society urging the construction of the four big battleships demanded by the President. That seems to be its chief concern. At the same time it asks the government to take the initiative in having an international commission appointed to study the whole question of armaments with a view of finding some practical international way of bringing about limitation and reduction of armaments. This latter is most excellent; it is only a repetition of the recommendation of the Hague Conference itself. All the peace societies heartily support this proposal. But why could not the North Carolina

Society have done this, and left the other undone? It is a very curious way of promoting a reform to begin by recommending an immediate and enormous increase of the very evil which it is sought to do away with. The Hague Conference itself did not venture, nor was it in the least disposed, to do such a stupid thing as this, along with its unanimous recommendation to the governments to study seriously the practical problem of relief from the burdens of armament. Even in our own Congress, which the new North Carolina Society has assumed to advise, there is a strong growing party who are opposed, under present conditions, to any further increase of the navy. This party has grown so powerful that it is practically certain now that it will defeat the program of the Navy Department for the construction of four new battleships. This party in Congress — Hale, Burton, Tawney, Bartholdt, Williams and many others — which is making a brave and winning fight for the arrest of rivalry in armaments, had a right to expect that it would have the earnest and hearty coöperation of any organization that pretends to call itself a peace society.

Students' Peace Movement.

Mr. George Fulk (Cerro Gordo, Ill.), secretary of the Intercollegiate Peace Association, has been making a somewhat extended visit among the colleges and universities of Ohio and Illinois, studying the general situation as to the opening for peace work in the institutions for higher learning, and getting a consensus of opinion from the colleges as to the future policy of the Association. In some of the colleges students' peace societies are favored; in others it is thought wisest to have some already existing organization, like the history or political science clubs, take up the peace work and represent in that institution the Intercollegiate Peace Association. In Chicago University the president of the Commonwealth Club has suggested that the Intercollegiate Civic League be affiliated with the Intercollegiate Peace Association. We have no doubt that some practicable method of reaching and arousing the interest of the students in all the institutions will gradually be found. The cause has now become so great and commanding as necessarily to compel the approval and active support of educated young men and women when it is intelligently laid before them. Mr. Fulk finds many evidences of possibilities for future successful growth of the Intercollegiate Peace Association. At the last meeting of their Executive Board it was voted to make the Association an auxiliary of the American Peace Society, and the constitution has been changed accordingly. Writing on the subject of the interest which students ought to take in the cause of peace to the *Wooster Voice* (Wooster, Ohio), Dr. Sylvester F. Scovel says:

"The study of peace is of the highest value to a student in any course and for whatever calling in life he may be planning his studies. It is an absolutely universal concern. And it interests whomsoever it interests at all in almost everything which goes on under the sun. The man who studies peace wishes to know all he can know about all the earth's populations (not one of them is now a "hermit" people), and all about their environment, and all about their race development and peculiarities. Why? Because each and all of these things are of import and significance in the incorporation of each people in the great, slowly-constructing mosaic of the all-embracing unity of nations."

"I have lived to see our colleges and universities fairly stripped of men when the drum-beat of 1861 rolled through our streets, and to see it repeated, in a smaller measure, in the war-call of 1898. I hope to live to see all our colleges and universities blazing centres of light and warmth which shall make them beacon-fires for progress toward the refinement of a truly Christian civilization, with its wide and deep beneficences for all classes and conditions of men; and leading straight away from the lurid fires of battlefield and blazing villages, from the hatreds and infamies, the unutterable sorrows and destructions of war."

The Presbyterian General Assembly.

We are very sorry not to have seen at the time the following excellent resolutions adopted by the Presbyterian General Assembly last year. They are so important and significant that we are glad to give place to them now:

"The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America records its gratitude to God for the progress made toward that day when nations shall learn war no more, and hails with satisfaction the increasing sentiment among the people favoring the arbitration of difficulties between the nations of the earth.

"The Assembly expresses its approval of the doctrine that the forces of the world should be organized for and in the interests of peace, and not for and in the interests of war. It commends the movement toward friendly counsel and coöperation, as seen in the Hague Conference and the recent Peace Congress in New York City, and it deplores the evils and expense of war, and urges upon ministers and churches to aid in every proper way the efforts to bring about the peaceable settlement of international troubles.

"The General Assembly would also suggest that patriotic occasions may be utilized by the ministry for proclaiming the gospel of peace, and urging that the law of love be made the rule of life, not only for our own nation, but for all the world.

"The Assembly further expresses the hope that, at the approaching sessions of the Hague Conference, the representatives of participating nations may be able to unite in a plan of action that shall be a practical demonstration to the world of the brotherhood of man, and bring a new emphasis upon the message of 'peace on earth, and goodwill to men.'"

The eighteenth of May is Peace Day in the schools.